

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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P R 260014Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217690

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, UR, US

SUBJECT: CODEL RIBICOFF/BELLMON: INITIAL PLANNING

REF: A) MOSCOW 19304; B) STATE 211398; C) STATE 200726

1. CODEL HAS MET AND VOTED ON ITINERARY. THEY WILL VISIT
MOSCOW, TASHKENT, TBILISI AND KIEV IN THAT ORDER, WITH
OPTIOAL SIDE-TRIPS FOR INTERESTED MEMBERS TO LENINGRAD
AND SAMARKAND. INTERCITY TRAVEL WILL BE VIA USAF VC 137
(BOEING 707), EXCEPT MUST USE SOVIET AIRCRAFT BETWEEN
TASHKENT AND SAMARKAND BECAUSE SAMARKAND LANDING STRIP
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TOO SMALL. TENTATIVE ITINERARY FOLLOWS:

NOVEMBER 9:
9:00 A.M. - LEAVE WASHINGTON.
8:40 P.M. - ARRIVE LONDON.

NOVEMBER 10:

REST IN LONDON.

NOVEMBER 11:

9:00 A.M. - LEAVE LONDON.
3:15 P.M. - ARRIVE MOSCOW.

NOVEMBER 12:

7:00 A.M. - LEAVE HOTEL FOR OPTIONAL TRIP TO LENIN-
GRAD VIA USAF PLANE. BREAKFAST AND DINNER ON BOARD.
6:00 P.M. - LEAVE LENINGRAD AIRPORT FOR MOSCOW.

NOVEMBER 13:

A.M. - TALKS WITH SUPREME SOVIET.
P.M. - CONTINUE DISCUSSION.

NOVEMBER 14:

A.M. - TALKS WITH SUPREME SOVIET.
P.M. - TO BE DETERMINED. MEET WITH BREZHNEV IF
CAN BE ARRANGED.

NOVEMBER 15:

9:00 A.M. - FAREWELL CALL ON SUPREME SOVIET.
10:30 A.M. - LEAVE MOSCOW.
5:10 P.M. - ARRIVE TASHKENT (FLYING TIME 3 HOURS,
40 MINUTES). DINNER WITH UZBEK OFFICIALS, INCLUDING
KUNAYEV
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NOVEMBER 16:

OPTIONAL DAY TRIP TO SAMARKAND. ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM
WHICH EMBASSY OR SOVIETS MAY SUGGEST.

NOVEMBER 17:

TRAVEL TO TBILISI (FLYING TIME 5 HOURS, 30 MINUTES).
MEET GEORGIAN REPUBLIC OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SHEVARDNADZE.
SIGHTSEEING.

NOVEMBER 18:

TRAVEL TO KIEV (FLYING TIME 3 HOURS, 10 MINUTES). MEET
UKRAINIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUD NG SHCHERBITSKIY.

NOVEMBER 19:

PROGRAM IN KIEV.

NOVEMBER 20:

9:00 A.M. - FAREWELL CALL.
10:00 A.M. - LEAVE KIEV; FLY TO BUDAPEST.

NOVEMBER 21:

FLY TO RABAT.

NOVEMBER 22:
RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

2. ABOVE ITINERARY REFLECTS GENERAL CODEL WISHES, BUT CODEL WOULD CONSIDER ANY CHANGES WHICH EMBASSY AND SOVIET HOSTS MIGHT RECOMMEND. CODEL WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF EMBASSY COULD PROCEED TO SKETCH OUT PROGRAM IN CONSULTATION WITH SUPREME SOVIET AND ADVISE.

3. CODEL HOPES THAT IN PLANNING TALKS AND SOCIAL EVENTS EMBASSY WILL AIM FOR A BALANCE BETWEEN FORMALITY AND INFORMALITY, MAXIMUM COMMUNICATION, AND WIVES' PARTICIPATION WHENEVER POSSIBLE. CODEL ALSO WISHES TO PLAN FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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STAFF ATTENDANCE AT ALL EVENTS WHERE A RECORD MAY BE DESIRABLE. WIVES OPTIONAL ATTENDANCE AT FORMAL TALKS WITHOUT PARTICIPATION IS ACCEPTABLE.

4. CODEL ACCEPTS IN PRINCIPLE ALL EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED REF A--BOTH ON PROGRAM AND PLANNING. CODEL APPRECIATES OFFER OF SPASO HOUSE RECEPTION AND AGREES TO FUND IT. ALSO ACCEPTS BREAKFAST WITH U.S. BUSINESSMEN. AS FOR MEETING WITH RESIDENT U.S. PRESS, CODEL WOULD CONSIDER IT MORE CONVENIENT TO MEET THEM AT MOSCOW AIRPORT AT TIME OF DEPARTURE, BUT IS OPEN TO FURTHER EMBASSY ADVICE ON TIME AND PLACE.

5. SENATORS BENTSEN AND CHAFEE HAVE WITHDRAWN AND WILL PROBABLY NOT BE REPLACED. ALL SENATORS WILL BRING WIVES. ANTICIPATE ABOUT 13 STAFF, FOR TOTAL OF 39 CODEL MEMBERS.

6. IF EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT ADVISEABLE, HOTEL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE NOW. SENATOR RIBICOFF WISHES AVOID HOTEL ROSSIYA--WE SUPPOSE SOVIETSKAYA IS BEST ALTERNATIVE. CODEL WILL NEED TWO SUITES FOR CODEL LEADERS, ONE SMALL SUITE FOR CONTROL ROOM, 13 DOUBLE ROOMS (INCLUDING TWO FOR STAFF), AND NINE SINGLES. DEPARTMENT ALSO PLANS TO ASSIGN ESCORT AND LANGUAGE SERVICES INTERPRETER--EACH WILL NEED SINGLE ROOM. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO ASSIGN ESCORT OUTSIDE MOSCOW. AIRCRAFT HAS 50 PASSENGER SEATS, SO AT THIS POINT IT APPEARS EMBASSY AND SOVIET HOSTS WILL HAVE MAXIMUM NINE SEATS BETWEEN THEM.

7. SPECIAL REQUESTS RECEIVED THUS FAR ARE FROM SENATOR GLENN TO VISIT "STAR CITY" NEAR MOSCOW AND FROM SENATOR BELLMON TO VISIT AGRICULTURE FACILITY. SENATE STAFF EXPECTS HALF OF GROUP OR MORE TO MAKE SIGHTSEEING TRIP TO CONFIDENTIAL

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LENINGRAD AND MOST TO GO TO SAMARKAND. CODEL WOULD APPRECIATE CONGEN LENINGRAD SUGGESTIONS FOR TOUR THERE AND EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE SCHEDULE IN TASHKENT FOR THOSE WHO DON'T GO TO SAMARKAND.

8. CODEL PLANS TO PAY ALL HOTEL BILLS AND TO PAY FOR MEALS AS NECESSARY. (CODEL STRESSES THAT IT CANNOT ACCEPT SOVIET PAYMENT FOR HOTELS.) CODEL ASKS EMBASSY TO PROVIDE OFFICE SUPPLIES AND COPYING MACHINE FOR CONTROL ROOM IN MOSCOW. WILL REIMBURSE EMBASSY FOR ALL REASONABLE EXPENSES, INCLUDING OVERTIME. REQUESTS EMBASSY TO HAVE ALL BILLS READY FOR PAYMENT BY CODEL PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM KIEV NOVEMBER 20. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES DIFFICULTY THIS MAY POSE, BUT HOPES EMBASSY CAN COMPLY WITH THIS CODEL REQUEST. PLEASE ADVISE.

9. DEPARTMENT WILL INFORM SOVIET EMBASSY OF DEVELOPMENTS.

10. ALTHOUGH APPOINTMENT OF CODEL MEMBERS HAS APPEARED IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, CODEL WOULD APPRECIATE CONTINUED DISCREET HANDLING OF PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT.

11. FLYING TIMES PARA ONE ARE BASED ON KNOWN AIR CORRIDORS. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO CHECK THEM WITH SOVIETS. ALSO, ITINERARY LEAVES ONLY BRIEF TIMES IN TASHKENT AND TBILISI SINCE WE EXPECT MOST OF THE PARTY WILL GO TO SAMARKAND. ANY THOUGHTS ON ITINERARY IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE WELCOME.

12. FOR LONDON, RABAT, AND BUDAPEST. PLANNING ON STOPS OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW STILL TENTATIVE. PLEASE DO NOT YET APPROACH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND KEEP FACT OF TRIP RESTRICTED ON NEED TO KNOW BASIS IN THE EMBASSY. CHRISTOPHER

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